

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] Aspects of the invention provide a method, apparatus and article of manufacture for allocating use of an access device between a host operating system and a guest operating system. The allocation of the access device enables a guest computer system to use capabilities or features of the access device whether or not the capabilities are supported by a host operating system. In one embodiment, a source of the received request to use the access device is determined as either the host operating system or the guest operating system. A determination of whether the host or guest operating system has a key for the access device is performed. The key enables either the host operating system or the guest operating system to use the access device. A determination of whether the received request is altering request to change a state of the access device or a passive request to read the access device is also performed. The processing of the request from the host and guest operating systems may be similar except when the request is an altering request and neither the guest host operating system nor the guest operating system has the key. In this case, the request from the host operating system is accepted and the request from the guest operating system is rejected.

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] An apparatus comprising a memory, an access interface and a processor is also provided. The memory stores a sharing management program and the host operating system. The sharing management program communicates with the host operating system and a guest operating system. The processor, upon executing the sharing management program, is configured to determine a source of the received request as either the host operating system or the guest operating system. A determination of whether the host or guest operating system has a key for the access device is performed. The key enables either the host operating system or the guest operating system to use the access device. A determination of whether the received request is altering request to change a state of the access device or a passive request

to read the access device is also performed. The processing of the request from the host and guest operating systems may be similar except when the request is an altering request and neither the ~~guest~~ host operating system nor the guest operating system has the key. In this case, the request from the host operating system is accepted and the request from the guest operating system is rejected.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In another embodiment, a computer readable medium storing a software program is provided. The software program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for allocating use of an access device between host and guest operating systems. A source of the received request to use the access device is determined as either a host operating system or a guest operating system. A determination of whether the host or guest operating system has a key for the access device is performed. The key enables either the host operating system or the guest operating system to use the access device. A determination of whether the received request is altering request to change a state of the access device or a passive request to read the access device is also performed. The processing of the request from the host and guest operating systems may be similar except when the request is an altering request and neither the ~~guest~~ host operating system nor the guest operating system has the key. In this case, the request from the host operating system is accepted and the request from the guest operating system is rejected.

Please amend The Abstract of Disclosure as follows:

A method, apparatus and article of manufacture for allocating use of an access device between a host operating system and a guest operating system. In one embodiment, a source of the received request to use the access device is determined as either the host operating system or the guest operating system. A determination of whether the host or guest operating system has a key for the access device is performed. The key enables either the host operating system or the guest operating system to use the access device. A determination of whether the received request is an altering request to change a state of the access device or a passive request to read the

access device is also performed. The processing of the request from the host and guest operating systems is similar except when the request is an altering request and neither the ~~guest~~ host operating system nor the guest operating system has the key. In this case, the request from the host operating system is passed and the request from the guest operating system is rejected.